

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON CAPITOL ANNEX & RELOCATION ISSUES

Minutes

Wednesday May 23, 2007

Conference Call - 9:30 am

Sen. Patti Anne Lodge, Co-chair - Present
Rep. Mike Moyle, Co-chair – Present
Rep. Scott Bedke - Present
Sen. Denton Darrington - Present
Sen. Bart Davis – Present via phone
Rep. Margaret Henbest - Absent
Sen. David Langhorst – Sent comments via email
Rep. Ken Roberts - Absent

Staff: Jeff Youtz, Eric Milstead & Robyn Lockett

Chairman Moyle brought the meeting to order and explained that at the May 17th Legislative Council meeting, the Council asked the Relocation Advisory Committee to investigate the possibility of a wireless audio system for the Capitol Annex, as a less expensive “real time” alternative to cable TV drops throughout the building.

The principle design from the beginning to cover House, Senate and JFAC proceedings in the Annex is to provide access to users via the internet. This will serve the public and most users very well. However, there is a 20-second delay between live action and the viewer. Consequently, the Legislative Council asked that we explore additional ways to get the audio portion of the House/Senate’s work live to their secretaries, to LSO staff, and to others who cannot work with a 20-second delay.

Peter Morrill’s proposal is to transmit three very low wattage radio stations within the Annex (one station for each of the House, Senate, and JFAC). This proposal would use the existing wiring and power outlets in the Annex to transmit an FM signal throughout the building. The Legislature would purchase three transmitters that will use the existing copper wire as an antenna. This will allow anyone in the building to get an audio signal in real time by simply tuning an FM radio into any one of the three discreet channels (House, Senate, JFAC). The total cost will be approximately \$5,350.

The Committee agreed that this is a cost effective and logical means of getting live, non-delayed audio streamed throughout the building. Jeff Youtz said this proposal would be fine for all LSO staff members, as the audio of floor proceedings is the most important aspect of following the floor action. In addition, staff can certainly follow the audio and video action via the internet when the 20 second delay is not an issue.

The original budget for the Capitol Annex included funding for cable TV drops slated for all of the hearing rooms and for each Chamber to enable those rooms to be used for other conferencing needs after the Legislature leaves. The Committee agreed that these should remain as scheduled. Any additional cable TV drops should be located at the discretion of each body, as directed by Leadership. These drops will allow for audio and video streaming of the Chambers.

Senator Davis made a motion to move forward with the FM radio system idea, with Representative Moyle and Senator Lodge taking the lead. Furthermore, Jeff Youtz will contact members of majority and minority leadership to determine whether they care to add cable TV drops to any of their respective space within the Annex. Motion passed unanimously.

The second agenda item concerned the voting board for the House, at which point the Senate members deferred discussion to the House members. Glenn Harris was directed to bring back some alternatives for the Advisory committee to consider in the very near future.